(a) whether the United State Trade Representative visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of various issues discussed between the two countries;

(c) the respective view points of both the countries; and

(d) the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The United States Trade Representative, Ms. Carla Hills, visited India from 4-8 October, 1991. During her visit, she held discussions on issues being negotiated in the Urguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations as well as the process of economic reforms under way in India. In respect of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the issues discussed include Trade in Textiles, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), and the rule making issues. On the issue of Textiles, the Indian side expressed unhappiness over the roll-over of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement upto 31 December 1992 without any improvement and sought improved market access for India's textiles exports. The need to make the process of phase-out of the MFA credible and irreversible was emphasised, the U.S. side indicated that they were prepared to examine the Indian request.

On the issue of TRIPs, the two sides had detailed discussions on copyright, trade mark as well as enforcement against infringement of copyright and differences were narrowed considerably. On the issue of patents, no new point was raised and the two sides agreed to let the matter rest for the present. The issue of TRIMs was discussed in the light of recent changes in India's policy towards foreign direct investment.

Visit of Swiss Delegation

301. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Swiss delegation visited India in October this year for developing closer economic and trade relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed during their visit; and

(c) the areas proposed by the Swiss delegation for investment in India and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). A Swiss Delegation led by Mr. Rane Felber, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice President, Switzerland, visited India from 7th to 13th of October, 1991. During mutual discussions, both sides emphasised their commitment to deepen the existing political, economic and trade relations between the two countries. Besides, new areas of cooperation especially in the field of software, precision instruments, textiles and gems and jewellery were identified for potential cooperation between small and medium entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft

302. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the development of light combat Aircraft indigenously indicating the expenditure incurred there on stage-wise since it was undertaken; and

(b) the time schedule fixed for accom-